

Classy Old South High Dresses Up for College

Katherine Kapos
Tribune Staff Writer
After three years and \$12 million in renovation, the old South High School is ready to begin a second life, this time as Salt Lake Community College's South City campus.

The school, which was closed in June of 1988 by the Salt Lake City School District, will open March 26 for spring-quarter classes.

"We are really excited about the opportunity to expand the college into that area of the city," said Ann Erickson, SLCC's academic vice president. "We think it will be a wonderful metropolitan community college campus."

The South City Campus on State Street and 1700 South will tap a new market of students, without taking away from SLCC's main campus on 4600 South Redwood Road, Dr. Erickson said. About 1,300 students already have registered for about 130 classes being offered.

Officials believe enrollment will double by fall quarter.

"Once people realize its not going to be a second-rate campus, they will overwhelm us," said Jay Williams, director of public communications.

Students and faculty will enjoy 42 classrooms, four science laboratories and 47 faculty offices, all of which have new carpet, paint and furniture.

The remaining student-service areas will be complete by April 8, including a library, cafeteria, health center and bookstore, said Edith Mitko, director of program innovation who is overseeing the move. Once in full operation, students

who attend the campus will have access to every function available at the main campus from registration to financial aid to a computer center.

The first event marking the school's opening will be the inauguration of President Francis W. Budd, May 10 in South City's 1,700-seat auditorium.

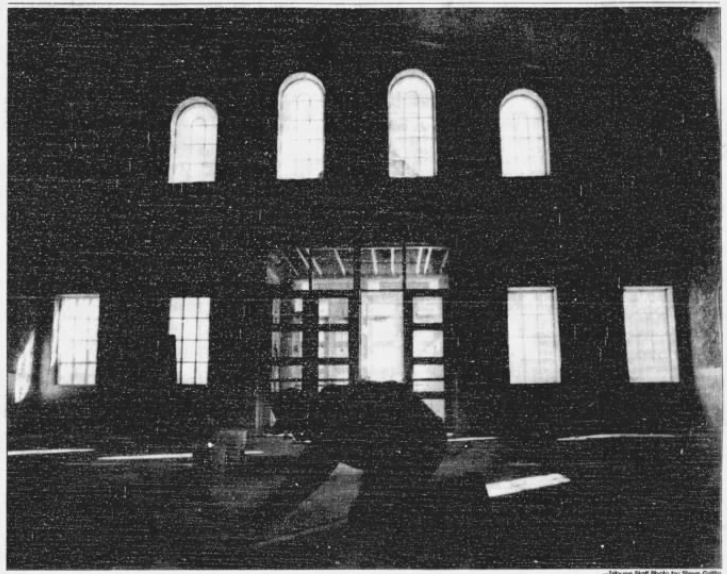
Officials wanted to maintain the school's architectural style wherever possible, Ms. Mitko said. The traditional entrance from State Street has changed very little, with the marble lobby and the original wood-framed windows still intact.

The main entrance is now on the east side of the building where the choir room use to be located, Ms. Mitko said. Even though changes were made to the area, it still has its high windows, archways and woodwork.

SLCC received \$13 million in state tax dollars to renovate the school. Of that, \$1 million was used to purchase the land and building and the remaining \$12 million to renovating the entire three-story building.

However, unforeseen problems "ate up a whole bunch of our money," so crews were only able to renovate the first and second floors, Dr. Erickson said.

Those unexpected problems included the costly removal of asbestos, roof repairs and foundation reinforcement, said Mr. Williams. Crews also had to replace the electrical and plumbing systems, install fire-sprinkling systems and air conditioning. Both floors have new paint, carpet and furniture.



Ken Jackman prepares floor inside entrance of the old South High School for tile. School building has been renovated and will be home to Salt Lake Community College's South City campus. Spring-quarter classes start March 26.